

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Trey Cooper, Fire Chief
Boo Lewis, Recreation Department	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged citizens to come out to the monthly council meeting.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady gave the opening prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JUNE 12, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 12, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

5. JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mr. Boo Lewis of the Recreation department was named the June *Employee of the Month*. Mayor Brady thanked Mr. Lewis for doing such a great job keeping the fields cut and all the facilities taken care of in the City of Marion.

6. Ms. Lois Edwards - Tree City USA

Ms. Edwards stated that it has been 26 years that the City of Marion has been with Tree City USA and thanked the city council for setting the budget and directing the city staff on how to proceed. She mentioned that the state of South Carolina celebrated Arbor Day the first Friday in December. She noted that the city had several bad years of hurricanes and storms and the city council always rises to the occasion. She thanked the city staff for their hard work and said that she cannot say enough about them. She stated that the city has many trees and the staff has to day in and day out take care of them to provide all the benefits. She also thanked the citizens for being the driving force behind the city council and staff doing the work. She noted that the citizens have the benefits and it gives them a sense of pride for having a good looking town.

Ms. Edwards presented Mayor Brady with a flag.

7. MARION COUNTY YOUTH DAY JOB READINESS TRAINING MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor Brady asked Mrs. Gwen Davis to read the Marion County Youth Day Job Readiness Training Month Proclamation and welcomed Mrs. Gwen as

the new City Clerk. He then asked Reverend Hemingway if he had any comments about the JRT Program.

Reverend Hemingway stated that he entered into a partnership with South Carolina Works to work with all the jobs of Marion County. He said that they would be asking all the jobs of Marion County to hire the youth who completed the JRT program starting the month of July 2018 and moving forward. He said that they would send the children to different jobs and they would be paying them. Mayor Brady thanked him and said he appreciated it.

Mayor Brady then asked Mrs. Gwen to read the proclamation and she read it to all in attendance. Mayor Brady thanked Reverend Hemingway for everything he does and thanked Mrs. Gwen for reading the proclamation.

Reverend Hemingway added an announcement, asking the City Council to give them a day in October, in which the JRT students will sponsor a picnic for the entire City Council, all the employees and their families. He said they will provide all the food and entertainment for the City of Marion. Mayor Brady thanked Reverend Hemingway and said they will be in touch.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the proclamation, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Darlington County Mutual Aid Agreement

Mayor Brady stated that the Darlington County Mutual Aid Agreement is a mutual aid agreement between law enforcement. He noted that if they need our help we go and help them and if we need their help they will help us.

Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the Darlington County Mutual Aid Agreement, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

9. State of South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreement

Mayor Brady stated that it is a standard mutual aid agreement that the city has had in the past for natural disasters. He noted that the agreement has to be enforced to receive reimbursement for FEMA dollars.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the State of South Carolina Mutual Aid Agreement, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**A. CPST**

Mr. Ammons stated that the council received a letter from Marion County Capital Sales Tax Commission. He noted that there are tremendous needs with the projects. He stated that they are all worthy projects, but there just was not enough money. He stated that when the commission met, they had to go back to the drawing board and had to make some changes. Mr. Alan

recommended for the city council to approve that instead of spending \$463,000 to spend \$363,000 on City Hall renovations. He recommended to put the \$100,000 from the City Hall renovations to the Green Street Sports Complex Project to raise that budget from 1.5 million to 1.6 million. This way they can get the land purchased, water, sewer, restroom and some of the infrastructure in. He stated that they would have to cut out the indoor batting cage and the lighting. He asked council to approve the changes to the city's original proposal so that he could get a response to them by July 19th.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked if the design of the building would be in such that it could pretty much seamlessly walk into that project if we have to defer it to another period. Mr. Ammons stated that Mayor Pro Tem Hunt was correct and that the footprint would stay the same. It is a great start and is still in our scope for progression.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion that the City Administrator and the Mayor respond to the capital project sales tax commission to approve the recommendations that the Administrator presented, seconded by Joseph Frazier. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Truck Route

Mr. Ammons stated that this proposal would prohibit trucks from using Manning St and Main St as a route. He noted that they have received several complaints from the residents about waking them up. He proposed that the

trucks be prohibited on parts of the following: South Main, North Main, Pine, Wheeler, Tom Gasque, Manning and TC Atkinson Streets as outlined in the attached map. All the trucks will still have a place to park and there will be signs provided to guide them.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson moved that the council allow the City Administrator and the Mayor to ask SCDOT to enact this proposal and with their permission they will enforce the proposed truck route presented to council, seconded by Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Enterprise Fleet Management

Mr. Ammons said that he went to a meeting with a representative from the Enterprise Rental and they are getting into the emergency rental business for police cars, pickup trucks, etc. He noted that the county moved forward with it. The city sent their information about the police cars to Enterprise and they are working on a proposal. He mentioned that they would come Thursday with the proposal to see if it is something feasible. Mr. Ammons stated if it is something they want to pursue he will present the proposal to council. He noted that it is a good program because the Police Department would keep the car two or three years and they will come pick up the car and replace the old one. They city only has to pay an annual fee.

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt noted that it is a good idea because many other counties participate because after two years cars start to deteriorate. He mentioned that this way we will have a fixed rate for each year and this way we will always have quality vehicles.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson moved to give the Mayor and City Administrator the authority to move forward to discuss with Enterprise Fleet

Management and bring it back to council for discussion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Michael Baker asked that Mr. Ammons bring the council up to date on the USDA Housing Repair Grant. Mr. Ammons stated that it is \$7,500 grant for those who are 62 and older for emergency home repairs. This money came available due to the Hurricane Matthew money and there are applications at City Hall. There is a \$20,000 loan available for anyone.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked if there could be some type of program set up to assist those who may need help completing the forms. Mr. Ammons said that he would contact the county to see if there was something they could do to assist the people.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATES FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Brady recognized Chief Tony Flowers as the new Chief of Police and mentioned the reception given him the night before. Mayor Brady thanked city council for being flexible and being willing to work with the Capital Sales Tax Project. Mayor Brady noted the landfill project under the direction of the new operator Joey Rabon. He stated that he had a copy of the inspection from DHEC and the city received a raving review on the condition of the landfill. Mayor Brady mentioned that the city had to cut 21 oak trees that were dying and becoming a hazard. Mayor Brady mentioned the summer camp program led by Ms. Ellen Baldwin and that she is receiving contributions for the back to school program. He encouraged the council

members to stop by and watch the children. Mayor Brady mentioned the "National Night Out" and welcomed Ms. Dolly Boyer from the Crime Watch Community to give a description of the event.

Ms. Dolly Boyer mentioned that the event begins on August 7, 2018 and encouraged everyone to attend to see the community pride and spirit in action. She recognized Mr. Ammons for helping to clean the streets. She noted that she supports Councilman Joseph Frazier's views on Thomas Trailer Park.

Councilman Michael Baker was thankful for the new shirts.

Councilman Joseph Frazier expressed his concerns about Thomas Trailer Park. He is wanting Thomas Trailer Park to be cleared. He holds the Mayor responsible for the trailer park not being cleared by now.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he discussed everything he needed to with Mr. Ammons.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no update.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked District 4 for their passion for safety and protection in the city. She also thanked Ms. Edwards for her passion with Tree City USA. She mentioned that Boo is her first cousin and she would congratulate him later. She congratulated Chief Tony Flowers again. She also congratulated Gwendolyn Davis and thanked her for accepting the position.

She thanked Reverend Hemingway for his passion for the JRT Program and all he does with the youth.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt thanked District 4 for their commitment to their district and commitment to the overall City of Marion. He noted that owner is willing to tear down the trailers one by one with the resources he has and that there should only be a problem when we see that he is no longer trying. He said that the city should give him a little time to keep working on it and allow him an opportunity just as everyone has an opportunity.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to go into Executive Session to discuss the personal matter of City Clerk and the Recreation Department. The motion carried unanimously.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Gwen Davis
Taped: July 10, 2018